

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 20 are pending, of which claims 1, 8 and 15 are independent.¹ Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action dated May 18, 2007 fails to take into account the preliminary amendment that was filed with this application (copy enclosed), and appears not to take into account the information disclosure statement (IDS) (copy enclosed) that was also filed with this application. Both the preliminary amendment and the IDS appear in PAIR.

In this regard, the original application only contained four claims, which appear to have been acted upon in the May 18th Office Action. The preliminary amendment amended those claims and added additional claims 5 to 20. The claims, as amended previously, are shown above.² Neither the amendments nor the new claims were acted upon in the Office Action.

The undersigned attempted to contact the Examiner of record, Juan C. White. The undersigned was advised by Examiner White's supervisor, Examiner Zandra Smith, that Examiner White had left the Patent Office, and that the application was now being handled by Examiner Ida M. Soward. In a follow-up conversation with Examiner Soward, the undersigned explained that the May 18th Office Action did not take into account the preliminary amendment or IDS. Examiner Soward instructed the undersigned to file a response explaining the situation, and advised that she would handle the matter when the case appeared on her docket.

Accordingly, as requested by the Examiner, this reply is being filed to formally request

¹ The Examiner is urged to independently confirm this recitation of the pending claims.

² Some claims were amended herein to correct typographical errors.

withdrawal of the May 18th Office Action and examination of the application taking into account the preliminary amendment and IDS that were filed with the application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. All telephone calls should be directed to the undersigned at 617-521-7896.

Please apply any fees or credits due in this case to Deposit Account 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket No. 14603-011US1.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 18, 2007



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